

*"To Preserve The Flame"*  
**SAINT JOHN'S CHURCH**

44 Temple St. Worcester, MA 01604

Phone: 508-756-7165

Fax: 508-754-5153

**Parish Website** [www.stjohnsworcester.org](http://www.stjohnsworcester.org)

**Food for the Poor Website** [www.stjohnsfoodforthe poor.org](http://www.stjohnsfoodforthe poor.org)

**PARISH STAFF**

**Pastor**

Fr. John Madden  
[frjohnmadden@gmail.com](mailto:frjohnmadden@gmail.com)

**Associate Pastor**

Fr. Jean Robert Simbert Brice

**Deacon**

Eduardas Meilus

**Coordinators of  
Religious Education**

Donna Mastrovito  
Dianne Gustowski

**Music Ministry**

Edward Lally, Director  
Lucia Clemente Falco, Asst.

**Sacristan**

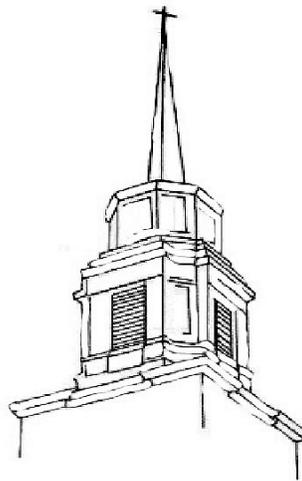
Dolores Vito

**Director of St. FX Center**

Raphael Mesadieu

**Parish Secretary**

Angie Perez



**MASS SCHEDULE**

**Lord's Day Masses**

Saturday Vigil: 4:15 & 7:15

PM

Sunday: 8 AM, 10:15 AM,

12:15 PM & 7:15 PM

**Weekdays**

Monday-Friday 6:15 PM

**Holy Days**

Vigil 6:15 p.m.

Holy Day 12:15, 6:15 p.m.

**Rectory Office Hours:**

Mon.-Fri. 9 am - 2 pm

[stjohnsworc@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsworc@gmail.com)

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Saturday- 3 pm

Monday – Wednesday

After the 6:15 p.m. Mass

**Sacrament of Marriage**

Please contact the parish office  
at least one year prior to  
planned date of marriage

**Sacrament of Baptism**

Please visit the parish website  
under the "Sacraments" tab

**Sacrament of the Sick**

Please contact the parish office

**Monthly Mass for Healing**

Followed by the Celebration  
Of the Sacrament of the Sick  
Fourth Monday of the Month

## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, February 7, 2026

4:15 PM **Paul Seaver, Health and Intentions of Brennan Patrick Cherry**, req. by Thomas M Vancelette

7:15 PM **Nora Healy**, req. by Friend

### Sunday, February 8, 2026

8 AM **David Covello**, req. by Family; **Frank Riccardi**, req. by Family

10:15 AM **Joseph Cahill**, req. by friends; **Health & Intention of Isabella R. Vancelette**, req. by Family

12:15 PM **Paul & Wini Gingras** req. by Family

7:15 PM **Blanca Ortega**, req. by Friend

### Monday, February 9, 2026

6:15PM **Francis Polucha (12th Anniv.)**, by Family

### Tuesday, February 10, 2026

6:15 PM **Robert Hegan, Sr.**, req. by Family; **Maria Cristina Banson (Month Mind)**, req. by Family

### Wednesday, February 11, 2026

6:15 PM **Mrs. Kim**, req. by Patricia May

### Thursday, February 12, 2026

6:15 PM **Wini Gingras (11th Anniv)**, req. by Family

### Friday, February 13, 2026

6:15 PM **Carmensila Vasques**, req. by Family

### Saturday, February 14, 2026

4:15 PM **Ann Dumas**, req. by Family; **Paul Bresnahan**, req. by Family

7:15 PM **Carol LeBlanc**, req. by Larry & Family

### Sunday, February 15, 2026

8 AM **John & Lorraine O'Neil**, req. by Family; **Mr. Zimmerman**, req. by Al & Sue Johnson

10:15 AM **Benjamin Salmon**, req. by Family;

**Esther Salvador Ciabrone**, req. by Family

12:15 PM **Jean & George Vancelette (4th Anniv)**, req. by Son Thomas Vancelette; **Edward**

**Mallaghan (1st Anniv./Birthday)**, req. by family;

**Carol LeBlanc**, req. by Larry & Family

7:15 PM **Ben Salmon**, req. by Family

The Rosary is prayed each weekday **beginning with the Angelus at 5:50 p.m.**

Dear Friends in the Lord,

People are exceedingly kind to me. For instance, last September 21<sup>st</sup>, I was able to attend the Steelers and Patriots game at Gillette Stadium. In case you forgot, the Steelers won 21-14. However, it was one of the worst games of the season. As happy as I was with the final score, I commented that though neither team looked good, one of them, the Patriots, certainly showed far more promise than the other. Now, as you know, I am not that John Madden, but obviously I was correct. While I cannot say that I am overjoyed about today's Super Bowl, I am happy for all of you who have been exceedingly nice to me. I will also confess that I have become a big fan of Ann Michael Maye. Enjoy and wait until next year!

After this weekend and the next Ordinary Time is suspended. On Ash Wednesday, February 18, Lent begins and then, of course, the Easter Season. Ordinary Time will not resume until the end of May. When it does, we will return to our journey through the Gospel of Matthew. Until then, these last two Sundays capture two of its critical themes. The first is that Jesus "came not to abolish the law and the prophets, but to fulfill them." The second is that "unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter into the kingdom of heaven." The readings today make clear what these two themes require and how they are produced.

The first reading comes from the end of the Book of Isaiah, known as Third Isaiah. The people have returned from their exile in Babylon and are faced with the challenge of restoring a righteous way of life. This passage is part of a straightforward description of authentic fasting. Fasting is not genuine without reforming one's way of life. (Timely for us as we begin to think about our Lenten observance). The prophet highlights both the obligation and promise it involves. God wants us to feed the hungry, to shelter the oppressed and the homeless, to clothe the naked, to assist everyone who is in need. If we meet our responsibilities, our light will shine, our wounds will be healed, and we will be embraced in God's glory. God rewards our fidelity, which we express most perfectly in mercy and justice.

In the Gospel passage, Jesus fulfills both the obligation and promise presented by the prophet. The need for us to respond, that is to be "salt of the earth" and "light of the world" is more critical today than ever. Partly, because of the clear need to grow the church. Primarily, though, because too many who call themselves "Christians," especially those in high and powerful positions, ignore the hungry, mock the oppressed and punish the needy. None of us are perfect. All of us worry that we might be hypocrites. The fact is, though, that we are not acting, we are striving; we are not pretending, we are repenting. We are not finished; we are beginning again.

In Christ's Peace,  
Fr John Madden

## ***FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME***

### **THIS WEEKEND'S HYMNS**

Entrance: We Are Called #799

Ps 112: The Just Are a Light

Resp: "The just are a light in the darkness to the upright."

Offertory— I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light #585

Communion— Christ, Be Our Light! #584

Resp: Christ, be our Light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Sending Forth— Build Your City on the Hill #741

### **TODAY'S READINGS CAN BE FOUND AT #1121 IN THE HYMNAL**

Is 58:7-10

1 Cor 2:1-5

Mt 5:13-16(73)

**FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME** - "You are the light of the world." (Matthew 5:14) On World Marriage Day, we honor couples who shine Christ's love through their union. Holy matrimony is a vocation of light, illuminating the world with faith and fidelity. Renew your commitment with your spouse in prayer.

**THE CATHOLIC BOOK CLUB** will meet on Monday, March 16, 2026 at 7:00 pm in the rectory. We will discuss *The Thief: A Novel* by Stephanie Landsem. All are welcome.

**OUR COFFEE SHOPPE** will reopen this Sunday after the 10:15 AM Mass. All are welcome to join!

**THE ST. RAFOA PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY** will be meeting on Wednesday February 11 at 10:00am to 11:30am in the downstairs chapel! All knitters and crocheters are welcome! Any questions, please call Connie at 774-262-2512!

**PASTA DINNER TO BENEFIT SEMINARIANS-SERRA SOUTH** will hold a Pasta dinner to benefit the seminarians of the Diocese of Worcester on Tuesday, February 17 from 5:00-7:00 pm at Point Breeze Restaurant Webster. All sales in advance with check in at the event. Please mail a check to SERRA SOUTH for \$10.00 to Roland Malboeuf, 36 Hillside Avenue, Webster, MA 01570

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT** will take place from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. in the Chapel on Tuesdays during Lent. All are welcome.

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**FIRST EUCHARIST** continues this Sunday, February 8th at the St Francis Xavier Center from 9:00-10:00 AM.

**GRADES 1-9** Classes will continue Sunday, February 8th, at 9:00 am in the church hall. Registration is still open, sign up online.

**CONFIRMATION CLASS** will meet on Tuesday, February 10, at 6:15 pm in the chapel for Mass.

**VALENTINES WORKSHOP** is taking place Sunday 2/8 following the 10:15 Mass. Kids will have the chance to make Valentines for their family and friends in the church hall. Coffee Shoppe is happening also, so feel free to stay and have coffee and donuts while your child creates. All ages welcome!

**SOUPER BOWL OF CARING** is a nationwide fundraiser for food charities. St. John's has participated in this for many years. After all the Masses this weekend, people will be standing at the doors with pots to accept donations. 100% of what we raise goes to support our guests at the St. Francis Xavier Center. Thanks!

**DINNER SHOW** - The Social Committee is sponsoring a Dinner Show on Sunday, March 22, 2026, after the 12:15 Mass. Dinner at 1:30, Show at 2:30. The dinner is a catered family style dinner, i.e., Chicken Soup, Garden Salad, Rolls & Butter, Roasted Chicken, Roasted Potatoes, Ziti with Meat Sauce, Coffee, Tea and dessert. The Show is a Tribute to Neil Diamond and a Tribute to Patsy Cline. Tickets are \$35.00 per person and will be on sale after 4:15 Mass or by calling Judy Burke 508 478-9813. Get your tickets early as there is limited seating. There also will be basket raffles and a 50/50 raffle all to benefit the Food for The

**MEN'S RETREAT IN WEST HARTFORD** - Holy Family Retreat Center, West Hartford will hold the Men's Weekend Retreat: Pilgrims of Hope on Feb 20-22. Come quiet your mind and nourish your spirit as we explore our journey on earth as pilgrims of hope. Dynamic teaching, home-cooked meals, and uplifting music. \$375. Call 860-760-9705.

**ST. MARY'S 14 ANNUAL FISH FRY** will be held on Friday, March 6, at 4:00 - 8:00 pm. Enjoy our classic Fish & Chips dinner complete with a drink and dessert: Advance Tickets: \$10; At the Door: \$15. Kids can choose Pizza or Mac & Cheese with a drink and dessert: Advance: \$5. At the Door: \$8. Also, treat yourself to clam chowder, wine, beer, and coffee! Don't miss this beloved tradition—good food, great friends, and a night to remember! Located at 640 Main St., Shrewsbury.

**In Our Catholic Community...**

**OUR MONTHLY MASS FOR HEALING** will be held on Monday, February 23, at 6:15 PM. Anyone in need of the Sacrament of the Sick is welcome.

**SPECIAL RELIGIOUS DEVELOPMENT FOR ADULTS** - Adult SPRED (SPecial Religious Development) is now meeting the first Sunday of the month (except April 2nd) at 12:30 PM during the school year. This is for intellectually challenged adults 22 years of age and older. Location is Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Hall, 11 Day Street, Webster. Please contact Linda at [Lbrink2019@gmail.com](mailto:Lbrink2019@gmail.com) for further details

**ZOOM STUDY PROGRAM ON GOSPEL OF LIFE**  
- The Respect Life Office of the Diocese of Worcester invites you to join "Live the Gospel of Life" a 6-week on-line study of St. John Paul II's landmark encyclical *Evangelium Vitae*. The sessions will be held via Zoom on Thursdays, Feb. 19 through March 26 from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. In the study, participants will have the opportunity to study and prayerfully reflect more deeply on The Gospel of Life and its central themes and teachings. The study series is open to anyone interested. You must pre-register. To register, email [ale-doux@worcesterdiocese.org](mailto:ale-doux@worcesterdiocese.org) with your name, parish, and email address; include the words "EV Study Registration" in the subject line. All are welcome!

**BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP** - Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, 111 Worcester Street, West Boylston will hold a six-session bereavement support group beginning, Monday, March 9th, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. and ending April 13th. This faith-based program offers insights about grieving in a healthy way to work toward healing. For more information or to register (required prior to the start of the meetings) call Renate Isbell (508) 835-3286.

**Our Parish Community...**

...Offers prayers and condolences to the families of Christian Jurgensen, III, Michael Lolich, Charles Negron II who have been born into eternal life.

**Financial Report**

This past weekend we received \$6448.00. We also received:

Monthly-	\$1946.00	Restoration-	\$286.00
Candles-	\$1675.00	Donations-	\$200.00
Stipends-	\$595.00	Utilities X-fer-	\$9718.12
Online-	\$17,597.76		

Total- \$38,465.88    Unrestricted- \$28,461.76    Restricted - \$10,004.12

Expenses- \$18,630.36  
Administration (4068.20) Schola (1780.34) House (324.31) CCD (253.95) Rectory Cable/Phone/Internet (650.55) Funerals (200.00) Church Gas (2391.07) Rectory Gas (2804.24) Stipends (1090.00) Federal Payroll Taxes (2243.70) Church Fire Alarm (2349.00) Copier (475.00)

**Food for the Poor Donations** – \$75.00 from a friend; \$50.00 from a friend; \$100 from a friend; \$10.00 from a friend; \$50.00 from a friend; \$10.00 from a friend; \$100.00 from a friend; \$20.00 from a friend; \$245.00 IMO Ed Mulhearn; \$25.00 IMO Jean Smith Varnum; \$150.00 IMO Patrick & Christopher Johnson; \$120.00 IMO Robert Aulizio; \$50.00 IMO C. Michael Lavin; \$550.00 IMO Betty O'Keefe; \$1,300 Winter Overflow Shelter; \$30.00 IHO Grand Marshal Jim Browne

**Food for the Poor**

Income- \$6500.00  
Annual Appeal- \$29,569.57  
Overflow Shelter- \$1,300.00  
Annual Appeal-\$375.00  
FFTP- \$990.00  
FFTP Expenses- \$8731.81

This weekend's second collection is the Catholic Home Missions Appeal.

**YEAR TO DATE** – in the month of January, the parish had an operating cash loss of \$9746.22. This puts our cash gain for FY25/26 at \$126.16. The Food for the Poor program continues to operate with a solid surplus. Thank you for all your generosity is support of St. John's.

**WORD OF LIFE:**

**"It is a lesson we all need—to let alone the things that do not concern us. He has other ways for others to follow Him; all do not go by the same path. It is for each of us to learn the path by which He requires us to follow Him, and to follow Him in that path."  
St. Katharine Drexel**